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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q67901

Masaaki NAKAMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/019,250

Group Art Unit: 1733

Confirmation No.: 1287

Examiner: Adrienne C. Johnstone

Filed: December 28, 2001

For: RUBBER-REINFORCING FIBER, PRODUCTION THEREOF, AND RUBBER
ARTICLE AND PNEUMATIC TIRE REINFORCED BY RUBBER-REINFORCING
FIBER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement, dated July 20, 2004, Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-12, 22 and 23 for examination. This election is made without traverse.

The Examiner has identified the application as containing claims directed to 3 distinct species. The Examiner has required the Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted. The Examiner believes claims 1 is generic. Applicant has been advised that a response to this requirement shall include an identification of the species that is elected and a listing of all claims readable thereon.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicant elects the substantially non-bundled fiber in the form of a fiber aggregate (specification page 15, lines 3-17) for examination on which claims 1-12, 22 and 23 are readable.

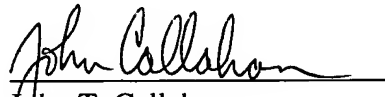
Applicant submits that if any of the elected claims are found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

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Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 13-21 and 24-28.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: August 20, 2004